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November 8, 2021

Chair Weisz, Chair Lee, Members of the Committee.

I am here today to speak in opposition to HB 1514.

As the creator of the Covid Memorial in place at the South end of the Capitol Mall, I have been keeping up with the numbers related to Covid. I have also been keeping a close eye on what the Food and Drug Administration is doing in reference to Covid. Both in preventatives and treatments.

While this bill doesn't specifically list any drug, it is my belief that it is written specifically for one drug. Ivermectin.

I'd like to cite some information from the FDA.

One of the FDA's jobs is to carefully evaluate the scientific data on a drug to be sure that it is both safe and effective for a particular use. In some instances, it can be highly dangerous to use a medicine for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19 that has not been approved by or has not received emergency use authorization from the FDA.

There seems to be a growing interest in a drug called ivermectin for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19 in humans. Certain animal formulations of ivermectin such as pour-on, injectable, paste, and "drench," are approved in the U.S. to treat or prevent parasites in animals. For humans, ivermectin tablets are approved at very specific doses to treat some parasitic worms, and there are topical (on the skin) formulations for head lice and skin conditions like rosacea.

Further the FDA also states

There's a lot of misinformation around, and you may have heard that it's okay to take large doses of ivermectin. It is not okay.

Even the levels of ivermectin for approved human uses can interact with other medications, like blood-thinners. You can also overdose on ivermectin, which can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension (low blood pressure), allergic reactions (itching and hives), dizziness, ataxia (problems with balance), seizures, coma and even death.

And more:

The FDA has not authorized or approved ivermectin for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19 in people or animals. Ivermectin has not been shown to be safe or effective for these indications.

Even the levels of ivermectin for approved human uses can interact with other medications, like blood-thinners. You can also overdose on ivermectin, which can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension (low blood pressure), allergic reactions (itching and hives), dizziness, ataxia (problems with balance), seizures, coma and even death.

I don't have the solution to getting out of the pandemic that we are currently in. What I do believe with all that I am is that the Legislature has no business being involved in this aspect of medicine. That I know of, there is only one medical professional in the Legislature currently. He is entitled to his opinion, but not to alternative facts that go against the FDA or the Centers for Disease Control.

A few statistics for you.

1791 people as of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, have passed because of Covid or Covid related complications. I don't know how many have passed had received the vaccine. I don't know if they were old or young. I don't know if they were fat like me or had pre-existing conditions like me. We lost Mom a year ago to Covid-19. In the past year, we have also lost half a dozen friends.

Just last week, we lost a friend who was 46 years old, who left behind young children.

We need to move toward the Greater Good, and away from the ME attitude so many of our constituents seem to have. But that is just my opinion.

Yesterday, while I was able to, I talked with people that were willing to talk to me, as they passed the Memorial, I talked with an elderly gentleman from Velva. And while this bill isn't about vaccines, I think that his message is important.

He said, "back in the 50's we lined up willingly to get the vaccine for Polio. It was our duty for the Greater Good."

He also told me that he was recovering from Covid and that his wife was currently very ill.

I believe in the right for people to choose for themselves. To take medication or not. I don't believe it should be up to me, or any elected official to interject themselves into the doctor patient realm.

As I stated, I don't have the answers. I just know that what we are doing isn't working. We can do better. For humanity's sake, we need to do better.

One last thing. North Dakota's population for the purposes of redistricting is roughly 779,000. Nationally, as of 9:05 pm November 8, 2021, the death toll was 754,000.

I'll stand for any questions.

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/covid-19-ND-2021>